

Re: Asking Windows Specific Questions

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Java/comp.lang.java.programmer/2006-05/msg02850.html>

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 - *Date:* Sat, 27 May 2006 02:05:47 -0600
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"Knut Johnson" <nospam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:6QRdg.15272\\$RK4.83@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:6QRdg.15272$RK4.83@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Luc The Perverse wrote:

If am writing a program in Java – and have a windows specific question – is it ok to ask that here? Or is there a different group for it? Should I x-post?

Maybe I need to start with a JNI tutorial.

Ask away!

Ok! :)

Here are the questions I have had. (All of these questions relate to a music searching program that I have no intention of being cross platform.)

1. System Integration: I would like to "launch" a file using the system's default handler (identical functionality to double clicking a file in explorer or putting file in run menu) I can use `Runtime.getRuntime().exec("explorer.exe " + filename)` but I believe that has high overhead, and it prompts if you want to open the file. ("D:\media\Short Vids\Star Wars Kid Matrix Parody.wmv" loads default system handler, in this case VLC media player)
2. Configuration Management: This may not be windows specific, but it is a problem I have with virtual every app I write. I need to store options – but the first piece of information I need is where the configuration file is. Knowing the path of my JAR file should be sufficient, but I don't know how to grab this. Some programs need to run with multiple configurations. What is the best way to handle settings/parameters/configuration management?
3. Drag And Drop: I would like to be able to drag and drop selected items in a JList into another application and have the same effect as though I had dragged selected files from an instance of explorer. (I do not think I

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need the specific, though useful, right dragging which gives you a menu, because I will not be dragging to another instance of explorer)

4. Windows Messaging: Right now I am writing an application which interacts which interacts with a windows program called winamp (A music player). I was forced to use a third party program called CLamp to allow command line interaction for enqueue and playing songs. If I could send windows messages from my program directly the only command line interaction I would need would be to invoke winamp if it is not already running.

5. Focus Question: In order for my program to work I need to invoke another program (winamp). As long as winamp is already running there is no problem, but when I invoke it my application loses focus and requires an Alt Tab or mouse click to regain focus. I looked through the available functions for a Gain Focus, Set Focus or Get Focus and I found MANY functions, none of which seemed to regain the window focus. Am I just misinterpreting the names – or has Gain Focus been deliberately removed from Java?

6. Installation Program Question: This had extensive redundancy with question #2. Basically I am looking for an installation program that can do all of the following:

- a. Link an extension to my java application (a document extension, or in this unusual case, the document is a "configuration")
- b. Check for JRE and direct user to a location to get it if they don't have it. (or allow a bundled JRE optionally)
- c. Install Start Menu/Desktop/Quick Launch shortcuts, with hotkeys if desired.
- d. Provide uninstall functionality
- e. Register DLLs or EXE files that my program interacts with

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LTP :)

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